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THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" According to the Act, I think second-class panchayats are being demarcated into wards only now."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Do the Government propose to hold the elections on the basis of adult franchise according to the Panchayat Act? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The present question relates only to the demarcation of wards. I have, however, no objection if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Certainly, Sir."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know if the Government propose to conduct elections to minor panchayats by the show of hands and if so, do not the Government think that this method of election would cause bitterness and factions in the villages? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to remind the hon. Member that this question deals with demarcation of wards and has nothing to do with elections. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

Non-payment of full wages to the workers engaged in Famine Relief Works.

* 166 Q.—SRI T. NAGI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any complaints about the non-payment of full wages to workers by the contractors engaged in public works opened for famine relief, and, if so, the action taken thereon? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes. The Government examined the complaints in consultation with the Collectors of season-affected districts and the Famine Commissioner. They ordered departmental execution of works. Where, however, works are to be executed through contractors, instructions have been issued to ensure that at least $87\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the estimate is paid out as wages."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know the number of complaints the Government have received, the number of complaints that the Government have disposed of and the number of contractors on whom the Government have taken action in view of the fact that there has been great dissatisfaction in the districts where the contractors have been asked to take up famine works? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has clubbed three questions into one supplementary question."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am sorry I cannot tell the number without notice. As for the complaints, I have gone into them and as a result of enquiries, departmental execution of works has been ordered."

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SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" In view of the fact that the earth-work rates for excavating channels are quite low and are only on the subsistence wage level, will the Government consider the desirability of raising the rates so as to ensure fair wages? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I will not concede that the wages are subsistence wages. The wages range from 12 annas to Rs. 1-8-0, and on an average the wages are one rupee here."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister said that as a result of departmental enquiries orders have been passed for giving as much of the works as possible to be executed departmentally, but in the question put by my hon. Friend, Sri Nagi Reddi, he wanted to know what action has been taken by the Government on those occasions where there has been non-payment of full wages. I wish to know whether any action has been taken to see that the balance of wages due to the workers has been paid by the contractors; if not, what is the action proposed to be taken by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" If any specific instances are brought to my notice I will look into them."

SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI :—" Are the Government aware that the delay in check-measurement of the famine works by the Assistant Engineers and the delay in the issue of cheques to the contractors resulted in the delay in payment of wages to the labourers? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member should resume his seat after putting his question."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I admit that there has been some delay in some cases; but that is due to the peculiar Budget that we were having this year; the Budget was only for four months, and for the rest they will have to wait till the new Budget is passed. But meanwhile, the Government have passed orders that they could be paid."

*SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The Hon. Minister gave us the assurance that if particular instances were brought to his notice, he would look into them. May I ask the Hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the statement issued by Sri P. Ranga Reddi, M.L.A., and also by the District Famine Relief Secretary of the Congress Committee of the Anantapur district, in which they have made specific complaints against contractors, with specific dates and places? Might I ask if the Government have gone into those cases and whether the contractors have been given enough punishment and the workers given relief? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In these days, many statements are made but I do not have time to go into them all. If any specific instances are brought to my notice, I will look into them."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The Minister was good enough to say that some works have been undertaken by the Government; may I know how many works have been taken up by the Government and how many have been given to contractors?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice of that question, Sir."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know, Sir, whether definite rules have been laid down regulating the relationship between the contractors and the labourers? I am asking the question because the contractors have been misusing their position and exploiting labour."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" That is why, Sir, the Government have ordered that at least 87½ per cent should be paid as wages to labourers. In the human set up of things, some misuse or abuse may arise, but if hon. Members would bring them to my notice, I will look into them."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that the contractors were not given money in time and the contractors did not pay to workmen and that all this is due to the peculiar state of the Budget. Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is a Contingency Fund of Rs. 1 crore, from which he could draw money?" 10–50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member has been in this House longer than myself and I am thankful to him for the information he has given. Perhaps taking advantage of that, the Government have ordered that the money could be paid."

Scheme of metalled roads for the Malabar district.

* 167 Q.—JANAB K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to place on the table a copy of the scheme of metalled roads recommended for the Malabar District by Mr. Vipen?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The scheme of metalled roads recommended by Mr. Vipen for Malabar District will be found on pages 134 and 135 of the " Scheme of Road Development of the Madras Presidency " by Mr. Vipen, published in 1935. A copy of the scheme is available in the Library of the Legislature."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" What is the total number of road miles in Malabar and its ratio or relationship with other parts of the State—Andhra and Tamil Nad?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."